

Ex. 1506
Evidentiary Document No. 5052B.

The International
Military Tribunal for
the Far East.

The United States of America and others

v.

ARAFI Sadao and others.

AFFIDAVIT.

I, FREDERICK CHARLES STUART, of 22 Liverpool Street, North Fitzroy in the state of Victoria make oath and say:-

On 26th January 1942 I was Senior Representative of the Australian Red Cross Society and was attached to the British Base Hospital at Alexandra, Singapore.

On Saturday, February 14th 1942 at approximately 4.30 p.m. the hospital was stormed by Japanese troops. Entering the main ground floor corridor from the south east end and over the back balcony, these troops raced through the building, bayonetting and shooting all who came in their path, leaving behind them a path of death and destruction. There could not be any mistaking the nature of the building. All the medical staff were wearing Red Cross Brassards, the beds had Red Cross counterpanes and the conventional markings were on the outside and the inside of the building. A huge Red Cross approximately 40 feet square was on the ground immediately in front of the building. There was no hostile act whatever from the hospital to provoke this attack. With 16 patients and two medical officers I retired to No. 2 Operating Theatre on the ground floor during the raid. I saw two British boys bayoneted. They were members of the Manchester Regiment. After the raid I saw quite a number dead who had been bayoneted or shot. I assisted bringing into the wards several who had been wounded. After the raid 46 dead bodies were lying in the corridor. These bodies were collected and buried on Monday 16th. The raid lasted about 30 minutes.

These troops entered No. 1 Operating Theatre on the opposite side of the main corridor to where I was located. An operation was in progress on a lad from the Loyals Regiment. He was under the anaesthetic. Two doctors and two medical orderlies were in attendance. One of the Japanese thrust his bayonet through the body of the patient. Without any provocation or warning the other Japanese turned upon the medical staff and killed one doctor and one orderly and wounding the other two. I saw this scene after the raid had ended. I assisted in bringing the wounded doctor and orderly into the surgical ward. I obtained the above details from them. Dozens of dead bodies were picked up in the hospital grounds at nightfall and were placed in slit trenches for burial.

I do not know what unit of the Japanese was responsible for this

tragedy other than information given by a Japanese officer who visited the hospital on Monday, February 16th. He was a lieutenant. He said it was the Imperial Guards who entered the Hospital first. He spoke very good English. These troops were dressed in tropical green uniforms, steel helmets and usual military equipment. Their uniforms were camouflaged with branches of trees and twigs. Many of them were like walking shrubs. These men were all about 6 feet tall. Most of the Japanese seen later were short in stature, about the 5 foot mark. The Commanding Officer of the hospital, 8 other officers and myself escaped death and injury. The C.O. Colonel J.W. Craven, contacted the enemy after the raid but could not get any satisfaction from them. He pointed to the Red Cross brassards and markings but he was brushed away and no notice taken of him. There did not appear to be any officer in charge of the Japanese.

Towards evening the Japanese mustered all patients who were on the ground floor, also a few staff and marched them off to the rear of the hospital. They numbered 183. Many of the patients were in pyjamas, many without footwear, some on crutches, others with limbs in plaster, heads bandaged, etc. Only two of these men were seen again. They escaped from custody during an artillery bombardment, and returned to the hospital. These men reported the terrible screams of the men. They were evidently bayoneted on Sunday, February 15th. One Japanese was seen wiping the blood off his bayonet. Later on, enquiries were made as to the welfare of the men, but the Japanese replied that they did not have any prisoners of war. A few days later a Japanese officer told the C.O. that our men had been buried in shell holes, with Japanese dead, about half a mile to the rear of the hospital. The total killed and believed dead as a result of the raid is 323, of whom 230 were patients. The R.M.C. lost 47% of the medical personnel and 55% of the officers on the staff.

Late on Sunday, February 15th, and on Monday, February 16th, a different type of Japanese entered the hospital. This crowd forcibly looted everybody of anything of value, such as watches, fountain pens, rings, cigarette cases, trinkets, money, etc. These articles were never returned. The store rooms were wrecked and food carried off by the case. The pack store where patients' personal belongings are stored was entered - clothing, footwear, etc. was carried off. They even used this store, which was in the centre of the hospital, as a latrine, completely fouling it.

I was a prisoner of war for three and a half years in four camps on Singapore Island. I saw plenty of face slapping and hitting with sticks, pieces of wood and iron, but no actual killings during the whole period. I lost four stone over the three and a half years. [No recognition whatever was accorded me as representative of the Red Cross Society.

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[Application was made repeatedly for some consideration to Red Cross personnel, but this was refused on each occasion.]

SWORN at Melbourne in the)
State of Victoria this the) (Signed) F.C. STUART.
27th day of September 1946)

Before me

(Signed) FLORENCE B. SUHR, J.P.
Central Bailiwick.